

Docket Number 09/779,156
Docket 00/053 MFE
Art Unit 1774
Page: 2

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A opaque, white film with a thickness of from 10 to 500 μm , wherein the film comprises a crystallizable thermoplastic, barium sulfate, and at least one optical brightener, wherein said crystallizable thermoplastic consists essentially entirely of polyester, wherein the barium sulfate or the optical brightener, or the barium sulfate and the optical brightener have been incorporated directly into the crystallizable thermoplastic or are fed as a masterbatch during film production, and wherein at least one surface of the film bears a functional coating with a thickness of from 5 to 10 nm, wherein the luminous transmittance of the film is reduced when the longitudinal stretch ratio is increased for a film of the same thickness.
2. (Original) The film as claimed in claim 1, wherein the crystallizable thermoplastic has been selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate and polyethylene naphthalate.
3. (Original) The film as claimed in claim 1, wherein from 0.2 to 40% by weight of barium sulfate is present as pigment in the film, based on the weight of the crystallizable thermoplastic, and wherein the barium sulfate is fed by way of masterbatch technology during film production.
4. (Original) The film as claimed in claim 1, wherein, based on the weight of the crystallizable thermoplastic, from 10 to 50,000 ppm of optical brightener is present in the

Docket Number 09/779,156
Docket 00/053 MPE
Art Unit 1774
Page: 3

film, and wherein the optical brightener is fed by way of masterbatch technology during film production.

5. (Original) The film as claimed in claim 4, wherein the optical brightener has been selected from the group consisting of bisbenzoxazoles, phenylcoumarins and bisstearylbiphenyls.

6. (Original) The film as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in addition to the optical brightener, a polyester-soluble blue dye selected from the group consisting of cobalt blue, ultramarine blue, anthraquinone dyes or combinations of these, is also present in the film, and wherein the amount of blue dye present in the film is from 10 to 10,000 ppm, based on the weight of the crystallizable thermoplastic.

7. (Original) The film as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barium sulfate is present as precipitated barium sulfate in the film in an amount of from 0.5 to 30% by weight, based on the weight of the crystallizable thermoplastic, and wherein the average grain size of the barium sulfate is from 0.1 to 5 μm , (Sedigraph method).

8. (Currently Amended) The film as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surface gloss of the film, measured to DIN 67530 (measurement angle 20°) is ≥ 10 , and wherein the luminous transmittance (transparency) of the film, measured to ASTM-D 1003 is $\leq 30\%$ ~~[[,]]~~ said film exhibiting said gloss and luminous transmittance in the absence of heat stabilizers.

9. (Previously Presented) The film as claimed in claim 1, wherein the film has one or more layers, and the film having more than one layer comprises at least one base layer and at least one outer layer.

10. (Original) The film as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the surfaces of the film bears a functional coating with a thickness of from 20 to 70 nm, and

Docket Number 09/779,156
Docket 00/053 MFE
Art Unit 1774
Page: 4

the coating has been applied as solution, suspension or dispersion, and wherein the coating comprises substances or compositions selected from the group consisting of acrylates, ethylvinyl alcohols, PVDC, waterglass (Na_2SiO_4), hydrophilic polyesters, vinyl acetates, polyvinyl acetates, polyurethanes, silanes, the alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salts of C₁₀-C₁₈ fatty acids, butadiene copolymers with acrylonitrile or methyl methacrylate, methacrylic acid, acrylic acid or esters thereof and mixtures of these.

11. (Original) The film as claimed in claim 10, wherein the coating comprises from 0.05 to 5% by weight of additional additives.

12. (Withdrawn) A process for producing the film as claimed in claim 1, in which the crystallizable thermoplastic barium sulfate and optical brightener is melted in an extruder and compacted, and then the molten thermoplastic material is extruded through a slot die and quenched on a chill roll, as a substantially amorphous prefilm, and then reheated and stretched longitudinally and transversely, or transversely and longitudinally, or longitudinally, transversely and again longitudinally and/or transversely, which comprises establishing the stretching temperatures at from T_g + 10 K to T_g + 60 K and establishing a longitudinal stretching ratio of from 2 to 5, and a transverse stretching ratio of from 2 to 5, and then heat-set the film.

13. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the first longitudinal stretching is carried out simultaneously with the transverse stretching (simultaneous stretching).

14. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein, the heat-setting of the film is carried out at oven temperatures of from 200 to 260 °C.

15. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein during film production reclaimed film material is used in an amount of up to 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the film.

Docket Number 09/779,156
Docket 00/053 MFE
Art Unit 1774
Page: 5

16. (Currently Amended) The An opaque white film as claimed in claim 1 [,]
with a thickness of from 10 to 500 μm , wherein the film comprises a crystallizable
thermoplastic, barium sulfate, and at least one optical brightener, wherein said
crystallizable thermoplastic consists essentially of polyester, wherein the barium sulfate
or the optical brightener, or the barium sulfate and the optical brightener have been
incorporated directly into the crystallizable thermoplastic or are fed as a masterbatch
during film production, and wherein at least one surface of the film bears a functional
coating with a thickness of from 5 to 10 nm, wherein the luminous transmittance of the
film is reduced when the longitudinal stretch ratio is increased for a film of the same
thickness, wherein said opaque white film further comprises reground.

17. (Currently Amended) The opaque white film as claimed in claim 4 16,
wherein said opaque white film further comprises reground formed from said film in
amounts of up to 50 weight percent, said film having a thickness of up to 50 microns and
exhibiting a yellowness of up to 20 [[,]] said film further formed in the absence of heat
stabilizers.

18. (Currently Amended) The opaque white film as claimed in claim 4 16,
wherein said opaque white film further comprises reground formed from said film in
amounts of up to 50 weight percent, said film having a thickness of from 50 to 250
microns and exhibiting a yellowness of up to 45 [[,]] said film further formed in the
absence of heat stabilizers.

19. (Previously Presented) The opaque, white film as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the luminous transmittance of said film is 15 to 20% lower than the luminous
transmittance of a comparable film formed from said crystallizable thermoplastic having
the same thickness as said film and lower longitudinal orientation than said film.

Docket Number 09/779,156
Docket 00/053 MPE
Art Unit 1774
Page: 6

20. (Currently Amended) The opaque, white film as claimed in claim 1,
exhibiting

- (a) a modulus of elasticity in the machine direction of at least 3300 N/mm² and in the transverse direction of greater than 170 N/mm²;
- (b) tear strengths in the machine direction of greater than or equal to 120 N/mm² and in the transverse direction of greater than or equal to 170 N/mm²; and
- (c) elongations at break of greater than or equal to 120 % in the machine direction and greater than or equal to 50% in the transverse direction [[,]]
~~said film exhibiting said moduli, tear strengths and elongations in the absence of heat stabilizers.~~